



## State of Tennessee

**Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller**

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2014

### **Putnam County Property Assessor Took Public Funds for Personal Benefit**

Putnam County Property Assessor Travis Roberts used county funds for his own benefit, an investigation by the Comptroller's office shows.

Roberts admitted to investigators that he had used a county credit card to purchase computers and related accessories over the last year. He then sold the equipment and used the money to pay personal expenses or traded the equipment to pay off some of his debts.

Roberts also said he had purchased premium ink pens and mechanical pencils, valued at more than \$24 each. He told investigators that he knew it was wrong to spend county money on those pens and pencils, but he really liked nice pens and took great pride in his penmanship.

The findings of the investigation were shared with the local district attorney's office. Earlier this week, the Putnam County Grand Jury indicted Roberts on one count of theft over \$1,000 and one count of official misconduct. Roberts also resigned from his position this week.

"Any time a person in a position of public trust violates that trust, it is of great concern to our office," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I commend our investigators for the work that they have done on this case and also law enforcement officials for taking swift action to bring this matter into the legal arena."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

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